

## **Minutes of the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board Meeting of Wednesday, September 4, 2013**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Takato Wakita at 12:08 PM.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Members present: Takato Wakita, chairperson; Barbara Ellis, City-at-Large member; Jaime Sodusta, San Juan, Philippines; Linda Mathews, Toba, Japan; Joe Cantrell, Weihai, China; and Georgia Gastouniotis, Patras, Greece.

Staff Representative: Linda Gunther

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a motion duly made by Barbara Ellis, seconded by Georgia Gastouniotis, and carried, the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, July 3, 2013, were approved with the following corrections:

- Pat Falling and Missy Zeitsoft – their names were misspelled throughout the minutes – the correct spellings of their names are: Pat Fallin and Missy Zeitsoff.
- Representative Reports – Toba, Japan, the falling sentence was incorrect: “A luncheon was held at the Wine Cask with the Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara in attendance and the Japanese Consul General also was in attendance.” This sentence should be changed to: “The Japanese Consul General hosted a luncheon held at the Wine Cask with Reverend Henry Adams of the Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara, the Mayor and three Councilmembers, as well and all the Sister Cities Committees’ Representatives.”

4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Staff representative Linda Gunther announced that due to the City election being held on Tuesday, November 5, Room 15 is not available on Wednesday, November 6; therefore, the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at the same time and place.
- Staff representative Linda Gunther also announced that due to the New Year’s Day holiday on Wednesday, January 1, 2014, the Santa Barbara Sister Cities Board meeting will be moved to Wednesday, January 8, 2014, and will be held at the same time and in the same place.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- George Logan, Barbara Fields, Roger Himovitz, and Thepo Tulku attended and shared their interest in having a Santa Barbara Sister City relationship with a city in Tibet.
- Tekin Girgin spoke regarding a Santa Barbara Sister City relationship with Ankara, Turkey.

6. **REVIEW CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2013:** The calendar was reviewed.

7. **ANNUAL REPORT:** All reports have been submitted, and the annual report was given to the Mayor and Councilmembers and placed on our website.
8. **ANNUAL 9-11 CONCERT – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2013:** Please be sure to post flyers around town and send them to each committee's members by email.
9. **ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS DAY CELEBRATION – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2013:** Be sure to remind all your committee members to attend and bring a dish to pass.
10. **PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY TV CHANNEL 18 – George Lilly:** No report made.
11. **NETWORKING/GET TOGETHER WITH MEMBERS FROM ALL COMMITTEE BOARDS:**  
Two dates that might work for all committee members are: Friday, September 27, OR Friday, October 4. The Greek Orthodox Church has offered their facility for this get together. Barbara Ellis will contact all members to find out their availability.
12. **SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL REPORT – Pat Fallin:** No report made.
13. **LIBRARY EXHIBIT CASE – MONTH OF OCTOBER:** All exhibits must be placed in the Central Library on October 1, 2013.
14. **2014 YOUNG ARTISTS & AUTHORS SHOWCASE – Gil Garcia:** No report made
15. **REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

**Kotor, Montenegro:** No representative attended and no report was made.

**Weihai, China:** Eliesa Bollinger, President of this Sister City Committee, is also the new alternate.

**Puerto Vallarta, Mexico:** No representative attended; however, a report was sent to Barbara Ellis and she gave the following report on their behalf. There will be a Puerto Vallarta visitation to Santa Barbara on November 5 through 14. The sister city committee is involved in a new health clinic. There is also a young artists and author contest this year being held at First Bank. A number of the Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee members attended the August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> So Cal Board meeting; these meetings are held in different areas of Southern California and one will be held in Santa Barbara after the first of the year.

**San Juan, Philippines:** Jaime Sodusta reported that this Sister City Committee is continuing to rebuild.

**Toba, Japan:** Linda Mathews reported on the Toba, Japan, and Obon Festival held on July 20 at the Santa Barbara Buddhist Church; 500 people attended.

**Dingle, Ireland:** No representative attended and no report was made.

**Patras, Greece**: Georgia Gastouniotis reported that their Sister City Committee has grown due to the Greek Festival and the information given out at that time.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gunther, Acting Secretary